

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084303

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, JA

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH OTSUKA ON MULTINATIONAL
REPROCESSING CENTER CONCEPT

1. DURING MARCH 25 MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT/ACDA OFFICIALS
AND OTSUKA (GOJ FOREIGN OFFICE), SUBJECT OF FOLLOW-ON
DISCUSSIONS ON MULTINATIONAL REPROCESSING CENTER CONCEPT
Arose. EARLY IN DISCUSSION IT BECAME CLEAR THAT OTSUKA
WAS STILL LABORING UNDER MISCONCEPTION (WHICH WE WENT TO
GREAT PAINS TO COUNTER DURING BENGELSDORF-VAN DOREN VISIT)
THAT U.S. INTENT WAS TO HAVE SUCH A CENTER LOCATED IN JAPAN,
HENCE HE WAS MOST RELUCTANT TO PURSUE SUBJECT. AFTER U.S.
EXPLANATION THAT SITING WAS AN OPEN QUESTION, OTSUKA
READILY AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO HAVE A U.S.-
JAPAN MEETING IF POSSIBLE SOMETIME IN MAY (PROVIDED LOWER
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HOUSE PASSAGE OF THE NPT IS ACCOMPLISHED BY THAT TIME).

OTSUKA FURTHER AGREED THAT TOKYO WOULD BE LOGICAL SITE FOR MEETING SO AS TO FACILITATE PRESENCE OF REPS FROM INDUSTRY AND OTHER MINISTRIES.

2. ON SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF CONCEPT, OTSUKA RAISED A NUMBER OF ISSUES OF CONCERN TO JAPAN, E.G., ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF SUCH A CONCEPT, PARTICULARLY BENEFITS THAT WOULD ACCRUE TO JAPAN, DISPOSITION OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES,

WHETHER PLUTONIUM WOULD BE RETURNED TO PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES (SPECIFICALLY KOREA), AND IF SO, IN WHAT FORM, ETC. U.S. SIDE RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT THESE WERE VALID QUESTIONS THAT COULD BE ADDRESSED IN MAY MEETING. OTSUKA ASKED IF U.S. COULD PROVIDE IN ADVANCE OF MEETING AN OUTLINE OF KEY TOPICS OF QUESTIONS WE WOULD HOPE TO COVER IN THE TALKS. U.S. SIDE AGREED TO DO SO. (WHEN COMPLETED, THIS WILL BE POUCHED TO EMBASSY FOR TRANSMITTAL TO OTSUKA.) FOR THIS PART, OTSUKA PROMISED TO PROVIDE U.S. WITH A LIST OF QUESTIONS ON CONCEPT THAT IS OF CONCERN TO JAPAN.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOW UP WITH OTSUKA TO PIN DOWN DETAILS OF MEETING. OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE SECOND OR LAST WEEK IN MAY. U.S. OUTLINE BEING PREPARED AND WILL BE TRANSMITTED WHEN COMPLETED. KISSINGER

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